

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 00947

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FOR GARRISON FROM BUCHANAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL ("RESIGNATION" OF RESIDENCE
EMPLOYEES)

1. EXCELLENT RESIDENCE COOK, YURI PETROV, SUDDENLY GAVE
NOTICE MARCH 29, CLAIMING HE WISHED TO RESUME WORK WITH
BALTIC STEAMSHIP CO. PRIVATELY, HE INDICATED SADLY HE WAS
GIVEN NO CHOICE: "C'EST LA VIE." GOOD CONSULATE WORKER
ALSO LEFT SAME DAY. DESPITE HARSH CONFRONTATION WITH UPIP
DIRECTOR VASIL'YEV AND HIS POLICEMAN MENTOR, KRYLOV, AND
SUBSEQUENT APPROACH TO DIPLOMATIC AGENCY, I WAS UNABLE TO
TURN SITUATION AROUND. ACTION TENDS TO SUPPORT EXISTENCE
REPORTED BY FINNISH CONSUL GENERAL OF MOSCOW DIRECTIVE
REQUIRING PERIODIC ROTATION OF EMPLOYEES -- PRESUMABLY
THOSE WHO HAVE PARTICULARLY GOOD RELATIONS WITH EMPLOYER.
ONE LOCAL EMPLOYEE INDICATED SHE THOUGHT SITUATION WAS MORE
A REFLECTION OF POOR STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. I PROPOSE NOW TO SEND FORMAL PROTEST TO DIPLOMATIC
AGENCY SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT. KRYLOV BOASTED OF GENERAL
STABILITY IN CONGEN RESIDENCE STAFF, BUT, IN FACT, BRIEF
REVIEW OF RECORD SHOWS THAT PETROV IS THIRD RESIDENCE COOK
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TO LEAVE ABRUPTLY WITH REQUIRED TWO WEEKS' NOTICE. WE ALSO
LOST A GOOD WORKER TO RETIREMENT, EVEN THOUGH HE WANTED TO
STAY ON. I PLAN USE OCCASION TO REPEAT FORMALLY SOME OF
MY EARLIER REMARKS AT UPIP AND DIP AGENCY (I.E., UPIP HAS
ABUSED THE POWER ENTRUSTED TO IT. PROMOTION OF INTER-
NATIONAL CONFIDENCE INVOLVES BASICALLY TRUST IN HOW OTHER
STATES WILL USE THEIR POWER WHEN THEY ARE IN A POSITION TO

DO SO; BLATANT ABUSES OF POWER IN SITUATIONS WHERE FOREIGNER ARE DEPENDENT ON SOVIET GOODWILL DOES LITTLE TO BUILD THIS CONFIDENCE.)

3. I HAVE MADE PLAIN TO UPIP THAT I DID NOT WISH TO BE DEPENDENT AGAIN ON ITS GOODWILL FOR RESIDENCE STAFF. REFLECTING SOVIET ESTIMATE OF THEIR LEVERAGE IN SITUATION, KRYLOV SLIPPED AND SAID: "WELL, OF COURSE, IF YOU CONSIDER IT ECONOMICAL TO HIRE ABROAD..."

4. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, MY HIRING OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS FOR RESIDENCE WILL NOT AFFECT THE SAN FRANCISCO BALANCE. BUT WHAT IF WE SHOULD DECIDE TO REPLACE ONE OR TWO KEY CONSULAR EMPLOYEES WITH THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS IN ORDER TO ENHANCE EFFICIENCY AND PERHAPS SECURITY? ASSUMING WE COULD FIND SOME WAY TO HOUSE THEM, WOULD THIS AFFECT NUMBER OF SOVIETS ALLOWED IN SAN FRANCISCO?

5. I RECOGNIZE THIS IS VERY PAROCHIAL CONCERN, BUT OUR LENINGRAD HOTEL CANNOT OPERATE WITHOUT ADEQUATE STAFF. IT IS, OF COURSE, INFURIATING TO SEE HOW SOVIETS EXPLOIT THEIR ADVANTAGE WITHOUT REGARD FOR INTERESTS OF EITHER AMERICAN OR SOVIET CITIZENS, AND THEN LIE TO OUR FACES. UNFORTUNATELY, I CANNOT SEE WHERE WE HAVE ANY LEVERAGE. PERHAPS YOU HAVE SOME THOUGHTS.

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6. THIS IS ONLY LATEST, MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE OF UPIP'S DISREGARD OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. WE HAVE LONG LIST OF PARTICULARS WHERE OUR REQUESTS HAVE GONE UNANSWERED. I HAVE ASKED STAFF TO PULL RECORD TOGETHER, FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION IN PROTEST IN MOSCOW, IF EMBASSY AND DEPT CONSIDER THIS APPROACH USEFUL. CONCEIVABLY, FOREIGN MINISTRY MIGHT REQUEST LENINGRAD CITY AUTHORITIES (WHO RUN UPIP) TO BE MORE COOPERATIVE. AS SMALL POST, WE ARE, OF COURSE, MORE VULNERABLE THAN MOSCOW TO SABOTAGE BY SERVICE AGENCY. BUCHANAN

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